

# MUFORG Bulletin

August 1966

Edited by John Harney

## COMMENT

### Policy

From correspondence received, it seems that MUFORG Bulletin is regarded as one of ufology's more conservative and sceptical (even sarcastic) publications. It is becoming obvious that most ufologists, whatever their views, prefer UFO reports, investigations and logical hypotheses to comment and even humour. While Mr Hopkins' hilarious, but sincere, article about the IGAP meeting had some readers rolling on the floor, it was completely lost on others. In order to avoid misunderstanding of our attitude to the UFO problem, it is perhaps best that we confine the funnier aspects to private conversations and correspondence.

We wish to do all we can to encourage serious UFO research and we would be pleased to publish details of serious research projects, investigations and analyses of UFO "flaps", etc.

We will still continue to make comments, as constructively as possible, on the conduct and attitudes of UFO organisations, but it should be realised that, whatever comments we make, or have made, no personal offence to anyone is, or was, intended.

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## M U F O R G   N E W S

Chairman resigns Paul Hopkins has resigned the office of Chairman, having moved to the South of England.

"Spaceship" film Mr & Mrs Oldfield are not satisfied with the explanation of their "spaceship" film. They are planning to show it to DIGAP (Manchester). MUFORG members will be welcome to attend.

"Professor" owns up The "Professor of Herpetology", whom we announced as our latest Honorary Member in the February issue of the Bulletin, has written to admit that he is only 13 years old. However, the Group decided, at their July meeting, that he could remain a member.

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## PRIME MINISTER QUESTIONED ON UFOS

On July 19th, Sir John Langford-Holt (Con., Shrewsbury) asked the Prime Minister, whether, since the Defence Secretary was responsible only for the air defence implications of reports of unidentified flying objects he would allocate to a department the assessing of their wider implications.

Mr Wilson said he would not.

Sir John said that an enormous number of reports were coming in to the Government from people who were not all cranks. It would be proper for someone in the Government to take a serious interest in them.

Mr Wilson said that they were taken sufficiently seriously when there was adequate information. Many were reports of natural

phenomena and those that were not were balloons and so on.

Mr Quintin Hogg (Con., St.Marylebone) tried to make a bit of political capital out of the occasion. He asked: "Is it not widely known that these unidentified flying objects are the chickens coming home to roost in the ruins of the Prime Minister's reputation?"

Mr Wilson replied: "I seem to remember thinking that particular question rather funny when it was put forward by the Member for West Flint (Mr Nigel Birch) some six years ago." (Laughter).

The foregoing is a good example of the hilarity which frequently greets any serious attempt to draw public attention to the UFO problem.

(Credit: Daily Telegraph, Daily Express, Liverpool Daily Post. 20/7/66.

#### TRENCH INTERVIEW

The person who compiles the "Charles Greville" column in the Daily Mail followed the familiar "Lunchtime O'Booze" tradition of popular journalism when interviewing the Hon. Brinsley le Poer Trench about his latest book, "The Flying Saucer Story" (Neville Spearman, 25/-).

While many of us disagree with some of Trench's opinions and attitudes to the UFO problem, it must be remembered that he has done much useful work, as a sometime editor of Flying Saucer Review, and in stimulating interest in the historical implications of the UFO mystery. He deserves our sympathy concerning the Daily Mail interview.

Trench is quoted as saying: "One of the things that needs investigation is that flying saucers seem to follow the old pre-Roman leys, or ancient tracks. ...."

"Greville" comments: "It doesn't explain, of course, why there is so much activity in the United States. Or was the Roman Empire larger than I thought it was?"

How dim can one get?

(Daily Mail, 19/7/66. Monitor: Miss M.P.Black)

#### RECENT NORTH WEST REPORTS

FRECKLETON, Lancashire. May 7th. -- Type I ?

Two men, driving home to Blackpool, in the early morning, saw two lights flickering in a field at Freckleton. They got out of the car and saw that the lights were revolving in a clockwise direction and then discovered that the thing was in the air. They got back into the car and drove on. The object followed them to the outskirts of Blackpool, then vanished.

(The People, 8/5/66. Monitor: Miss M.P.Black)

Note: There is an RAF station near Freckleton, at Warton.)

TEMPLE SOWERBY, Westmorland June --? Monster

Three men fishing in the River Eden, near Temple Sowerby Village, at night, suddenly spotted an "incredible thing" in the water. The creature was described as having large, sparkling eyes, of a red hue. It was described as being "like a bear", its shoulders protruding above the water as it swam. A fourth man came on the scene. He broke a branch off a tree, making a loud crack, but the monster did not move. The man threw the branch at it, whereupon it made straight for the three anglers, who ran away. No further details have been forthcoming.

(Liverpool Echo, 20/6/66. Monitor: Miss M.P.Black)

LITHERLAND, Lancashire July 18th Weather balloon?

Schoolchildren, lying on the grass during the lunch hour, saw an oval, white object, drifting slowly across the sky.

(Liverpool Echo, 19/7/66)

The descriptions given in the Echo report are quite consistent with the sighting of a weather balloon. These balloons are sent up regularly from the radio-sonde station at Aughton, a few miles away from Litherland.

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R E C E N T   T Y P E   I   U F O   R E P O R T S

OKLAHOMA, U.S.A. On Highway 70, near Texas-Oklahoma border. March 23rd

At about 5.30 a.m. an electronics teacher stopped his car when his path was blocked by a huge "perch-shaped" object, sitting across the highway at a 45 degree angle. Craft was estimated to be about 75 ft. ~~a~~ long and 8 ft. high. Witness stopped his car about 50 yards away from it.

Witness said the craft had four brilliant lights on the side facing him. The craft had one porthole about 2 ft. in diameter, and below it a door 4-4½ ft. tall and about 2½ ft. wide. Witness saw only one landing support but felt sure it had three others. A "human" was checking the underside of the craft with a torch. When witness got out of his car, the "human" crawled up some steps and slammed a door shut. The "human" was about 5ft. 9ins. and was wearing what looked like green-coloured fatigues. He was wearing stripes (presumably on his sleeves, like the chevrons worn by N.C.O.'s). He had a light complexion.

The craft was further described as being lit up inside and having a plastic bubble about 3 ft. in diameter in the front. Witness said he saw serial numbers on the side, consisting of a letter T over a letter L and the numbers 4768 or 4168.

The craft was observed for 30 to 60 seconds. When it started up it made a noise like a high-speed drill. It lifted off the ground to a height of about 50 ft. and then sped away at a speed estimated at about 700 m.p.h.

When first received by IIOUFO, this report was not thought to be of great value, but later developments have brought it up for further investigation.

(Credit: Interplanetary Intelligence Report, May-June 1966 and Robert Stiff, IIOUFO)

MISSOURI, U.S.A.   Liberty.   April 1st

A woman, who claims to have been sighting UFO's on many occasions since last Christmas, sighted them again on the night of April 1st, while driving in her car. She followed them and saw them land near farm house. She parked her car nearby and observed them for 2-3 hours. There were two of them. One landed on top of a hill while the other circled. During the time one of the objects was circling, a train passed by and the UFO turned off its lights and flew to the top of a nearby tree and hovered there until the train was gone, then turned its lights back on again. Also during this period the other UFO on top of the hill rose slightly and moved behind the hill. After the train had passed, both objects came to rest on top of the hill, a short distance apart.

Both objects were brightly lit at this time and no shape could be distinguished, although witness felt they must have been oval or egg-shaped. She continued to watch the objects and later glimpsed the shadow of a man or men. She then heard what sounded like two men shouting at each other very loudly in a foreign language. Shortly after this she heard sounds like those of a pig being butchered. (She knew from experience what that sounded like). She said that these sounds scared her and her mother (who was with her in the car), so they did not approach the objects any closer. During this time one of the objects blinked out and a point of green light was observed to come from it. She did not see the operators in the flesh, but ~~xx~~ from their shadows they seemed to be of human size and shape. During the time the objects were seen, bright, star-like sharp points or cones of light, about 13-20 ft. in length, were seen to come from them. The objects were estimated to be about as big as a helicopter or a car, and were too bright for any structural details to be observed. Shortly after the shouting and "slaughtered pig" noises, the objects took off and flew rapidly away, with the witness giving chase for a while.

When the incident was investigated, no physical traces were found in area of the reported landing.

(Credit: Interplanetary Intelligence Report, May-June 1966)

PENNSYLVANIA, U.S.A. near Erie

August 1st

An unidentified flying object was reported to have landed near Erie, Pa. The incident was investigated by Air Force Major William S. Hall, of Youngstown, Ohio, who refused to make any comments. Witnesses described the object as "cube-shaped, whitish or metallic in colour." A teen-age girl insisted that she saw a "formless" creature with a head and shoulders but no legs near where the object was supposed to have landed.

A photograph published with the press report shows a dragging, claw-like imprint in the sand, with three Air Force markers surrounding it.

This incident is to be investigated by the Ohio state office of IIIOUFO.

(Credit: Robert Stiff, IIIOUFO, quoting "Oklahoma Journal", 3/8/66)

FRANCE, Attigneville, Haute-Marne

March 26th

A 54-year-old shepherd, M. Jean Veilquin, was guarding his sheep at the time of his sighting, which took place at about 1.45 a.m. He saw an object approaching him which he at first took to be a piece of paper, blown by the wind. When it came closer he saw that it was a wheel-shaped object, moving and rotating perpendicular to the ground and just above it. The object followed a perfectly straight course and followed the contours of the ground. The witness had it in sight while it covered a distance of about 500 metres. The sheep were frightened by the object and grouped together as it passed them.

The "wheel" was a milky-white object, with a number of "teeth" sticking out around the rim. The object was about 80 cm. in diameter and about 15-20 cm. thick. It appeared to be thicker at the centre than at the rim. The "teeth" were bright red. The witness compared them to the teeth of a potato harvesting machine.

The object moved at a speed of about 25-30 km. per hour, and passed within about 20 metres of the witness. He noticed that it did not seem to be entirely rigid, because when it came in contact with the ground it seemed to give slightly (as if it was made of some elastic substance).

The investigator of this report (M. Robert Roussel, who works as a reporter and photographer for "La Liberté de l'Est"), draws attention to a very similar incident, which took place at Puy-Saint-Galmier (Puy-de-Dôme), on May 31st, 1955, at 11 a.m.

(Credit: Phénomènes Spatiaux, June 1966)

## TYPE I UFO REPORTS ---

### INVESTIGATION, RESEARCH AND HYPOTHESES

We have begun to concentrate on Type I reports for several reasons:

1. There is generally little room for misinterpretation in these reports.
2. Many of them give a great deal of circumstantial detail which can usefully be compared and contrasted with other reports.
3. There are not - so far - an overwhelming number of such reports.
4. Some ufologists feel that these reports must hold the key to the UFO mystery, in that, if properly investigated and analysed they should be capable of being proved or disproved - as objectively real occurrences - to the satisfaction of most reasonable people.

These reports have increased considerably during the past few years, so it is important that we begin to compile catalogues of them, to facilitate proper analysis, before they become too numerous.

One of the main difficulties facing those who begin to compile files of these reports is the question of what to put in and what to leave out. In this field we must, of course be reasonably selective, but it is difficult to be selective without being prejudiced.

The subject of ufology has, during the twenty years of its existence, been bedevilled by prejudice, preconception, obscurantism,



the "will to believe" and the "will not to believe." After twenty years ufologists, amateur and professional, are still floundering helplessly in search of a sensible and consistent working hypothesis with which to deal with the vast amount of data which has been amassed. No attitude or approach to the problem - no single theory - seems to hold up when subjected to careful scrutiny. The opposing attitudes of extreme scepticism and extreme credulity have been shown time and again, to anyone who has bothered to study the subject at all, to be equally nonsensical. The truth must lie somewhere in between.

In order to avoid personal prejudices entering into our investigations we propose, initially, to record all reports of UFOs landing or at a very low altitude and all "operators" with or without UFOs, including contactees. It may then be possible, at the analysis stage, to sort out the genuine reports from the hoaxes, etc., that is, assuming that some of the reports are genuine.

We wish, through the medium of this Bulletin, to do all we can to help the progress of serious UFO research and investigation, particularly with reference to Type I reports. We would like to hear from other ufologists who are working on Type I reports and we hope they will send us details of their working methods and any significant discoveries they may have made, for publication in this Bulletin. We are also willing to publish requests for information and co-operation.

Information and informed opinions on the following questions would be useful to workers in this field, especially to beginners.

1. Which are the best methods to use in compiling card indexes, catalogues, charts, statistics, etc.? Do you use a code to classify the chief characteristics of these reports?
2. Which are the most significant details to look for when compiling lists of reports or analysing them, and why?
3. How reliable are the people (amateur and professional) who investigate these reports? Do they tend to put words into the witnesses' mouths, or to ask leading questions?
4. To what extent are these reports distorted by sensational journalism, translations, national characteristics, etc? Can you give any examples?

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There appear to be two main theories about UFOs:-

1. The whole subject is a modern myth, compounded of misinterpretations, illusions, hallucinations, rumours, hoaxes, etc.
2. They are spaceships from other planets.

Some preliminary discussion of these theories may be of interest at this stage. We hope that our readers will contribute their ideas to help us in our search for the best working hypothesis.

The first theory is subscribed to by most scientists and by most people in general. It has often been pointed out, however, that most of the people who have publicly expressed their extreme scepticism have either never studied the subject, or have only a very superficial knowledge of it and are apparently unaware of the nature and extent of the problem. Patrick Moore, for example gives the impression that he has only heard of the activities of the crackpot "saucer cultists" and seems to be unaware that a number of people, some of them highly qualified, are engaged on a serious study of the subject.

It is also glaringly obvious that the scepticism of many scientists, particularly astronomers, is motivated by prejudice or extreme conservatism, analagous to the case of the people who refused to look through Galileo's telescope to avoid seeing something which contradicted the astronomical theories prevailing at that time. It is becoming increasingly evident, too, that the publicly expressed disbelief of some scientists, when confronted with questions on UFOs, is not genuine. Some of them have, in private conversations with UFO enthusiasts, shown that they have an open mind on the subject, or even that they tend to favour the interplanetary spacecraft hypothesis. Their public displays of scepticism are merely to avoid ridicule and the disapproval of their more rigidly orthodox colleagues.

These emotional and personal reactions of scientists to our subject do not, however, weaken their theory that all UFO observers are either mistaken or lying. There are many indications that seem to support the theory, but very few UFO researchers have adopted it as a working hypothesis, the most notable one who has adopted it being Dr Menzel. Menzel, though, is rather weak on Type I reports. He seems to deal with them by simply disbelieving them and leaving it at that. In Britain, Mr Alan Sharp occupies the position of "Devil's Advocate", from the point of view of the UFO "believer." His painstaking investigations of craters, purportedly made by UFOs, resulting in his finding perfectly natural explanations for almost all of them, has been stimulating to serious researchers and has, no doubt, prodded many enthusiasts into taking more trouble to make sure of their facts before jumping to conclusions.

It seems the main usefulness of those who pursue the idea that all UFOs can be explained as mistakes or hoaxes is in the elimination of all the false reports, thus helping to clear away the "smoke" so that we can get a glimpse of the "fire."

The interplanetary or, rather, interstellar hypothesis of UFOs is very simple in essence, but very complicated when we begin to speculate on the implications of it. Variations on this idea are discussed at length in most UFO books. Its one great attraction is that, by assuming the existence of a Superior Galactic Community and by ascribing various abilities, qualities and motives to its members, it is possible to explain practically every phase of UFO activity. It is also possible to extend this hypothesis to give plausible reasons why the reality of UFOs is not, and cannot be, believed in by most people, or publicly acknowledged by their governments at the present time.

Some people have already made their choice between these two hypotheses. Others remain uncommitted. Most of our readers, I think, tend to favour the second hypothesis. In this case it should be possible, by careful analysis of the reports and by painstaking on-the-spot investigations, to prove the truth of it. For, if our activities in this sphere are to be of any lasting value, we must be able to convince not only ourselves, but all reasonable people.

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#### "ODD" ORGANISATIONS AND UFO PETITION

Our remarks, in the June issue of MUFORG Bulletin, about the M.I.A. Petition and the "odd" organisations produced some reactions, favourable and unfavourable. The letters received have, to some extent, cleared up the points we raised.

An important point was made by Mr Martyn C. Harper, who is the organiser of the Midland Interplanetary Association's national skywatch. He points out that the reason for M.I.A.'s association with the Cosmic Brotherhood Association is to obtain data on sightings, etc. and that M.I.A. does not subscribe to their policies. This sort of thing, then, presumably applies to other UFO organisations and their various exotic affiliations. There is also the problem that many UFO organisations sport wierd titles which may, or may not reflect their present policies and attitudes to the subject. It thus seems that the only objective way of judging whether an organisation is "rather odd" or not is by the quality of its published work.

With regard to the UFO Petition, BUFORA has decided to ignore it and their official views on it seem to coincide with those of MUFORG. However, the Secretary of M.I.A., Mr Derek Samson, informs us that ours is the only group that is not taking part in it and that hundreds of extra Petition forms are having to be printed.

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#### RECENT BOOKS

ANATOMY OF A PHENOMENON by Jacques Vallée - Neville Spearman, 25/-

The British edition of this book has at last been published. It was well worth waiting for. It is undoubtedly one of the most objective and important books which has been published on the



subject of UFOs.

This book is a great encouragement to those who wish to take part in a serious, rational investigation of the UFO problem. The nature and extent of the problem is clearly set out. Jacques Vallée is the first UFO writer to make quite clear what it is that we are investigating. He points out, in the Preface: "The phenomenon under study is not the UFO, which is not reproducible in the laboratory, but the report written by the witness. This report can be observed, studied and communicated by professional scientists; thus defined, the phenomenon we investigate is obviously real. Our problem is no longer to explain but to analyze."

Ancient and modern UFO reports and the various theories advanced to account for them are discussed. The author also outlines ideas whereby methods of investigation and the quality of research can be improved.

He also has a few words to say about amateur UFO groups and reviews and he doesn't think much of them, with one or two exceptions. He states that their only positive contribution has been the publication of sightings.

This work is a real breakthrough in UFO literature and should be required reading for every ufologist.

THE FLYING SAUCER STORY by Brinsley Le Poer Trench - Neville Spearman, 25/-

This is a fairly run of the mill flying saucer book. The author lists important sightings and goes on, in the later chapters, to discuss such things as the reports of crashed UFOs, contactees and the alleged activities of such organisations as the C.I.A. to keep "the truth" from the public.

However, in the last chapter, Trench finally reveals what he is getting at. He is Chairman of a body known as the "International Sky Scouts." This organisation welcomes young people as members with the object, apparently, of preparing mankind for membership of the Galactic Community. Trench, you see, is not only convinced that that this Community exists, but is watching and waiting for the day when the Earth and its people will be fit to join it. He does not make it clear in his book, though, how he arrived at this definite conclusion, apart from by wishful thinking. I have an uneasy suspicion, though, that any prospective member of the Sky Scouts who, before committing himself, asked for some convincing proof of the existence and the good intentions of these "space neighbours" would be accused of "idle curiosity!"

New American UFO Books A book by Frank Edwards, entitled "Flying Saucers - Serious Business" has been well received by serious UFO researchers in the U.S.A. It does not appear to be available in Britain yet. The publishers are - Lyle Stuart, Inc., 239 Park Avenue South, New York, New York 10003. A new paperback, "Strangers from the Skies," has just been published. It apparently deals with Type I reports. No further details of it are available at present.

PHÉNOMÈNES SPATIAUX This review, the quarterly journal of the Groupement d'Etude des Phénomènes Aériens et Objets Spatiaux Insolites, deserves a wider readership. It is particularly to be recommended to UFO researchers for its accounts of investigations of individual UFO reports. These accounts contain all possible details and thus provide a valuable record of these occurrences for future reference. In short, it is well worth brushing up your French in order to read this magazine.

Single copies 7.50 F, 30 F a year. Available from -  
69 Rue de la Tombe-Issoire, Paris 14e, France.

Take advantage of MUFORG Bulletin If your UFO group has just investigated an important UFO incident send the details to us. If considered sufficiently important, a special edition can be produced at short notice and sent to other UFO groups.

ANNOUNCEMENT

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The Truth About Flying Saucers

INTERPLANETARY INTELLIGENCE  
REPORT

Established in August 1957, the INTERPLANETARY INTELLIGENCE OF UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS, (IIOUFO) was organized for a scientific investigation of unidentified flying objects, UFOs.

Now an international organization with Representatives in 35 Foreign Countries, with 50 United States Offices, backed by a Panel of prominent scientists, we are endeavouring to add what information we can to solve this the mystery of the ages.

Membership of the IIOUFO is 3.00 dollars a year in the U.S.A. Elsewhere 4.50 dollars. Members of the IIOUFO receive our official publication "The Interplanetary Intelligence Report", which is published six times a year and is 8 pages, and an official IIOUFO membership card.

The duties of IIOUFO members are to report UFO activity in their area and do investigation work for the IIOUFO.

The Interplanetary Intelligence Report is recognized as one of the leading UFO publications. The IIOUFO welcomes your articles for publication along with your UFO sightings and photographs.

The IIOUFO was permitted by authorization from the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. to visit and question the Air Force Project Blue Book files at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio in September 1964.

The IIOUFO was featured by the National Broadcasting Company (NBC) special 1½ hour UFO national program of August 21, 1965.

The IIOUFO was featured in a French Broadcasting System UFO documentary movie.

The IIOUFO was the only UFO organization to do on the spot investigation during the August 1965 historic wave of sightings.

The IIOUFO was the organization to bring you the famous Tulsa, Oklahoma photograph taken during the wave on August 2, 1965.

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The headquarters of IIOUFO is at 3929 N.W. 19, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Overseas mail is handled by - Mr Robert Stiff, 5001, N. Miller, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, U.S.A.

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CONTRIBUTIONS Articles, letters, comments, reviews, press cuttings welcome. Contributions published in this Bulletin are the responsibility of their authors and do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of MUFORG.

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